



From December 2021 (Volume 122)





December... 2021

CONFUSION ??!!

Every TV news, every radio programme, every newspaper gives different information. We, in common with everyone else, are now totally confused.. Medical opinions vary enormously from warning of millions dying to the thinking that whilst the new Omicron strain is more contagious , its results are not so serious. From the thought process that young children have this natural immunity to the rapid requirement that below 5's will now get inoculations. Modelling, which is the new 'in-speak' suggests so many totally different results. The whole situation is bizarre and frankly I am totally fed up with opinions. These are as the name suggests not factual but the louder they are shouted, or the more prestigious the speaker is labelled, the more the 'opinions' are taken as gospel. Lynn and I really feel that sensible travel, sensible interaction and continuing with a sensible life-style with others is acceptable. The key word is 'sensible'. Yes, we wear masks on public transport and avoid crowded environments but no, we do not stay home and we walk in fresh air!. Wales and Scotland have lockdown imposed not yet...but from Dec 30th. If it is so serious and so devastating why is it not immediate? Why, I also ask, is our beloved Boris not making decisions yet? A rhetorical question. The answer is simple. He is playing at politics. Let circumstances decide what happens next. Impose total lockdown now and he risks 'being the instigator of Christmas cancellation' plus bringing hospitality to its knees at a critical time. Leave it a while and then he can say with facts exonerating his late actions that circumstances now have forced his hand. A 'groaning at the seams' NHS and travel and hospitality and the arts will have to bear the financial disaster that is coming. It will be the certain end of many well-loved companies and the ruin of many hard-working people. The government possibly consider it collateral damage...unless its them in the firing line..

I don't profess to have an easy answer to a difficult question but the responsibility for decisive and clear immediate action lays with our government who consistently fail to grasp that the clue is in the word government..ie to govern. We need some reasoned and articulate leadership and sadly this is totally lacking. Many feel that we now have a government that posts edicts that the electorate should follow whilst they do not. When any misdemeanours are brought to the public attention the perpetrators rarely are dismissed. Government should be by example

The new feature of my ramblings is the insertion of 'current news and opinions' in the red boxes as above interspersed in these pages.

This volume starts a couple of days before Christmas and roads are busy as people are , despite warnings, still determined to enjoy a family Christmas. Maybe in the fear that soon it may , once again, not be possible.

Our kids were here a couple of days ago and have now returned home. It was great seeing them growing up into well-balanced young people and instead of games, we all sat round discussing various topics.. DP had some business to attend to and when he came back we all enjoyed a spirited time together. Tammy joined us all in the morning and it is so great to see the family bonding. This is something that 'happens' and cant be manufactured. Likewise the family Whatsapp is now established with Berlin, Israel and the UK all participating . I love this extended family relationship...long may it continue...Larnie and Tammy have had to cancel their Christmas in Amsterdam as Holland is 'locked down' now. And I think Christmas this year will be all of us in our own homes relaxing and unwinding with food, fun and no hassles.

Our Christmas lunch was eaten alone and we guiltily thoroughly enjoyed it. Shame it was just the two of us but never the less we were in constant touch with the kids. . A Boxing day 3 hour walk was misty and wet , through Goldings at Hertford and a circuit taking us along the river and back to Bengeo. We arrived back at the car, muddy and invigorated just as it got dark. A meal of cold 'leftovers' followed and we sometimes think it is better than the turkey roast which is so overhyped..



Photo History



Pre-Christmas evening meal



December 2021





Photo History





Photo History



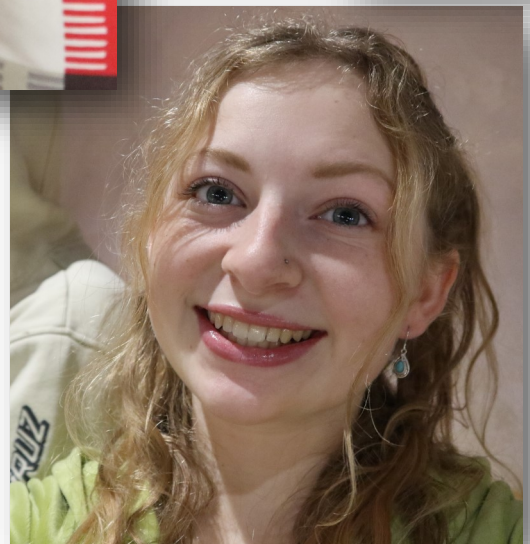
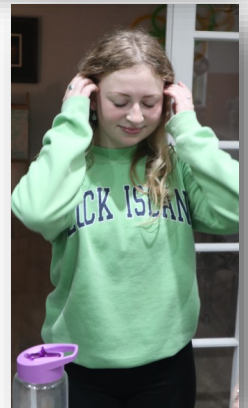




Photo History



Chatting with Lynn over Christmas we started looking at older volumes of these Photo Histories and they brought back so many memories of us and family and things we all did together plus holidays and so many things we had totally forgotten. The fact that they are , more or less, in a chronological order, places them in context and we found it fascinating as we do so hope will be the case for future generations reading this.

I am conceited enough to think that these will be read and hopefully passed on to the next generations. If only we had a Photo History of our predecessors it would give us such an important insight into what life was like in previous eras from a very personal perspective. Information that no history books could give one.. Anyway,...and I am sorry about this lengthy preamble, I had a thought—Lynn and I live in an home environment that has developed over many years and where we feel comfortable now. We are fully aware that it is not to everyone's taste and we often hear “ we thought of you both, knowing you would like it”...this could refer to art, places, music etc. It is possibly a bit patronising but we like to feel that, yes, we are individuals, and as such we have very individual taste. The fact that friends say that, is possibly meant sincerely.. We read into it ..Ralph & Lynn would like it but it does not appeal to us. So summing up...we have an eclectic taste. Our house—our home—reflects this and the next pages show the many strange, loved items we have accumulated over the years. Many have stories attached and I will insert them where relevant. I do hope this is not too boring...but the beauty of books is always being able to skip pages...



Trent Park autumn colours and textures always seem to offer some new delights







The lovely landscaped gardens at Goldings, Hertford on a misty December day



Seemingly a neighbourhood annual contest for the most ornate Christmas garden in Grange Park...we vote this as the winner once again





We often wondered what happened to unloved lorries ...now we know.....they slowly merge into the countryside





A story without words



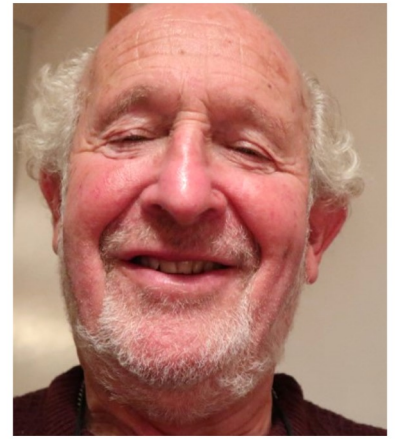


A lovely walk along the Lee Navigation at Hertford in December 2021. Instead of 'chocolate box' shots perhaps the street art and life under the motorway gives a different view of life..





2022



New Year's Day ..Tea
at Lyn's





Photo History





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